AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A rocker mechanism adapted for operably interconnecting a chair to a base, comprising:

an upper casting adapted for interconnection with the chair;

a lower casting adapted for interconnection with the base;

a stop defined in one of a top surface of said lower casting and a bottom surface of said upper casting; and

a first dual-rate leaf spring having a first end anchored to said upper casting on a first surface of said first dual-rate leaf spring and a second end anchored to said lower casting on said first surface, said first dual-rate leaf spring extending angularly between said upper and lower castings, said first dual-rate leaf spring having a fixed first effective spring rate defined by a first distance along said first surface between said upper and lower castings for rocking in a first direction and a fixed second effective spring rate defined by a second distance along a second surface between said upper and lower castings for rocking in a second direction, wherein relative pivotal motion between said upper and lower castings is limited by contact of said stop to one of said top surface of said lower casting and said bottom surface of said upper casting.

2. (Previously Cancelled)

3. (Previously Amended) The rocker mechanism of claim 1, wherein said first distance is defined between a face of said upper casting and a face of said lower casting.

4. (Previously Amended) The rocker mechanism of claim 1, wherein said second distance is defined between connection points of said first dual-rate leaf spring to said upper casting and said lower casting.

5. (Previously Amended) The rocker mechanism of claim 1, further comprising a second dual-rate leaf spring interconnecting said upper and lower castings, said second dual-rate leaf spring having a first effective spring rate defined by a first distance between said upper and lower castings for rocking in a first direction and a second effective spring rate defined by a second distance between said upper and lower castings for rocking in a second direction.

6. (Previously Amended) The rocker mechanism of claim 5, wherein said first distance is defined between a face of said upper casting and a face of said lower casting.

7. (Previously Amended) The rocker mechanism of claim 5, wherein said second distance is defined between connection points of said second dual-rate leaf spring to said upper casting and said lower casting.

8. (Original) The rocker mechanism of claim 1, further comprising a plurality of stops defined by a top surface of said lower casting, wherein relative pivotal motion between said upper and lower castings is limited by contact of one of said plurality of stops to a bottom surface of said upper casting.

9. (Previously Amended) The rocker mechanism of claim 8, further comprising a plurality of boots extending between said upper and lower castings for respectively covering said plurality of stops.

10. (Previously Amended) The rocker mechanism of claim 1, wherein said first dual-rate leaf spring is preloaded for defining a relative rest position between said upper and lower castings.

11. (Currently Amended) A rocker mechanism adapted for operably interconnecting a chair to a base, comprising:

an upper casting;

a lower casting;

a stop defined in one of a top surface of said lower casting and a bottom surface of said upper casting; and

first and second leaf springs interconnecting said upper and lower castings for relative pivotal motion therebetween, <u>said first and second leaf springs each including a first surface that lies adjacent to both said upper and lower castings,</u> said first and second leaf springs extending angularly between said upper and lower castings

for maximizing a length of each of said first and second leaf springs, said upper and lower castings defining first and second effective lengths of each of said first and second leaf springs to provide fixed first and second spring rates for each of said first and second leaf springs, wherein said first spring rate is different than said second spring rate, wherein relative pivotal motion between said upper and lower castings is limited by contact of said stop to one of said top surface of said lower casting and said bottom surface of said upper casting.

12. (Previously Cancelled)

13. (Previously Amended) The rocker mechanism of claim 11, wherein a first effective length of each of said first and second leaf springs is defined as a distance between faces of said upper casting and faces of said lower casting.

14. (Previously Amended) The rocker mechanism of claim 11, wherein a second effective length of each of said first and second leaf springs is defined as a distance between connection points of said first and second leaf springs to said upper casting and said lower casting.

15. (Original) The rocker mechanism of claim 11, further comprising a plurality of stops defined by a top surface of said lower casting, wherein relative pivotal motion between said upper and lower castings is limited by contact of one of said plurality of stops to a bottom surface of said upper casting.

16. (Original) The rocker mechanism of claim 15, further comprising boots associated with each of said plurality of stops extending between said upper and lower castings for respectively covering each of said plurality of stops.

17. (Previously Amended) A chair assembly comprising:

a seat frame including a seat back and a seat;

a base;

a recliner mechanism operably interconnecting said seat frame and said base such that said seat frame is positionable between an upright position and a reclined position; and

a rocker mechanism adapted to operably interconnect said seat and said base, said rocker mechanism comprising:

an upper casting adapted for interconnection with the chair;

a lower casting adapted for interconnection with the base; and

a first dual-rate leaf spring having a first end anchored to said upper casting and a second end anchored to said lower casting, said first dual-rate leaf spring having a fixed first effective spring rate defined by a first distance between said upper and lower castings for rocking in a first direction and a fixed second effective spring rate defined by a second distance between said upper and lower castings for rocking in a second direction.

18. (Previously Cancelled)

19. (Previously Amended) The chair assembly of claim 17, wherein said first distance is defined between a face of said upper casting and a face of said lower casting.

20. (Previously Amended) The chair assembly of claim 17, wherein said second distance is defined between connection points of said first dual-rate leaf spring to said upper casting and said lower casting.

21. (Cancelled)

22. (Previously Amended) The chair assembly of claim 17 further comprising a recline stop mechanism defining said upright position and said reclined position.

23. (Previously Amended) The chair assembly of claim 17 further comprising a spindle assembly operably interconnecting said rocker mechanism to said seat base to provide relative swivel motion therebetween.

24. (Original) The chair assembly of claim 17, further comprising a plurality of stops defined by a top surface of said lower casting, wherein relative pivotal motion between said upper and lower castings is limited by contact of one of said plurality of stops to a bottom surface of said upper casting.

25. (Previously Amended) The chair assembly of claim 24, further comprising a plurality of boots extending between said upper and lower castings for respectively covering said plurality of stops.

26. (Previously Amended) The chair assembly of claim 17, wherein said first dual-rate leaf spring is preloaded for defining a relative rest position between said upper and lower castings.

27. (Previously Presented) A chair assembly comprising:

a seat frame including a seat back and a seat;

a base; and

a rocker mechanism adapted to operably interconnect said seat and said base, said rocker mechanism including:

an upper casting adapted for interconnection with the chair;

a lower casting adapted for interconnection with the base; and

first and second leaf springs interconnecting said upper and lower castings for relative pivotal motion therebetween, said first and second leaf springs extending angularly between said upper and lower castings for maximizing a length of each of said first and second leaf springs, said upper and lower castings defining first and second effective lengths of each of said first and second leaf springs to provide first and second spring rates for each of said first and second leaf springs, wherein said first spring rate is different than said second spring rate;

a recliner mechanism operably interconnecting said seat back and said seat such that said seat back is positionable between an upright position and a reclined position; and

a spindle assembly operably interconnecting said rocker mechanism to said seat base to provide relative swivel motion therebetween.